

Message Text

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK'S NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PAK MET WITH REPORTERS IN ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE, BREAKING NO NEW POLITICAL GROUND, EXHORTING KOREAN PUBLIC TO CONCENTRATE ON SELF-DISCIPLINE AND HARD WORK TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND CONTINUE ALERTNESS IN NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS. HE NOTED THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF OIL HAD BEEN FOUND IN COUNTRY AND THAT INCUMBENT YUCHONGHOE NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN WOULD NOT BE CHANGED ON LARGE SCALE. PRESS IS HEADLINING OIL STORY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT PAK CHONG HUI, LOOKING FIT, RELAXED AND CONFIDENT, MET WITH REPORTERS IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 FOR HIS TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S TELEVISION APPEARANCE. WHILE NEARLY TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR PERFORMANCE LACKED SPONTANIETY AND MUCH EXCITEMENT, PRESIDENT PROVIDED COMPRENSIVE REVIEW HIS POLICIES ON SECURITY, ECONOMY, FOREIGN POLICY, AND DOMESTIC POLITICS. NOTING THAT 1975 HAD BEEN DIFFICULT YEAR BECAUSE OF DPRK THREAT FOLLOWING INDO-CHINA AND OIL CRISIS, HE CLAIMED ROKG

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HAD MET CHALLENGES SUCCESSFULLY BUT UNDERScored CONTINUED

PRIORITY NEED FOR (A) SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NATIONAL SECURITY AREA; (B) ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH REDUCED IMPORTS, INCREASED NATIONAL SAVINGS, AND COOPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR; AND (C) STRENGTHENED UNITY OF THE PEOPLE BY ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES. HE PROMISED TAX REFORM, BETTER INTEREST ON LOW WAGE EARNERS' SAVINGS AND MORE INCOME FOR FARMER. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL ECONOMIC GOALS, PAK SAID ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE SHOULD BE FROM 7 TO 8 PERCENT PER ANNUM.

2. HE TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON FOREIGN POLICY AND UN MATTERS, NOTING THAT UN WAS PROBLEM, THAT ROKG WAS RE-EXAMINING ITS UN POLICY CAREFULLY, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT YET READY TO ANNOUNCE ANY CHANGES IN PRESENT PLANS. HOLDING OUT FOR PEACE FIRST, THEN REUNIFICATION, HE HAD NO FORMULA FOR GETTING NORTH KOREA TO TALK EXCEPT PATIENT URGING AND DOWNPLAYED CONSEQUENCES OF DPRK SUCCESS AT UN.

3. IN WAKE OF RECENT PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED YUCHONGHOE NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN, PAK SAID HE CONTEMPLATED NO "LARGE SCALE" CHANGES. HE ALSO HAD NO PLANS TO ALTER RULING CAMP ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL AND WHAT MINOR CHANGES WERE INEVITABLE, WERE DUE TO EXPIRATION OF TERMS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

4. PAK CAME DOWN HARD ON CORRUPTION SAYING CORRECTION OF ADMINISTRATION AS IMPORTANT AS NATIONAL SECURITY. HE CLAIMED THAT CORRUPTION, INJUSTICE AND IRREGULARITIES HAD BEEN REDUCED SINCE INTRODUCTION OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION BUT THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE.

5. REGARDING REGIME'S "CONCEPTS", PAK AFFIRMED THAT KOREAN PEOPLE SUPPORTED YUSHIN AND NEED FOR UNITY, ARGUED FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY AND ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL POWER, CRITICISED BLIND ACCEPTANCE OF DEMOCRACY, AND INDICATED NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGES.

6. PRESS PLAYED PROMINENTLY LAST QUESTION OF CONFERENCE, PERTAINING TO OIL RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND IN POHANG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA. PAK STATED THAT IN EARLY DECEMBER, 1975, KOREANS DISCOVERED WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS "A FEW DRUMS" OF POL IN YONGIL BAY AREA. KIST ORGANIZATION EXAMINED QUALITY AND FOUND IT GOOD. SUPPLY WAS FOUND 1500 METERS UNDERGROUND. FOREIGN TECHNICIANS AND MACHINES ARE BEING IMPORTED TO EXAMINE QUANTITY AND FURTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS.

7. TEXT WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM WHEN AVAILABLE.
(NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM HAS SCHEDULED HIS NEW YEAR'S
PRESS CONFERENCE FOR JANUARY 17.)

COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR NEWSBREAKS ON OIL AND YUCHONGHUE
PLANS, CONFERENCE BROKE NO NEW GROUND PROVIDING INSTEAD
COMPREHENSIVE RESTATEMENT OF PARK'S WELL KNOWN VIEWS.
PRESIDENT GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION OF MAN CONFIDENTLY IN THE
SADDLE. NOTABLE BY ITS ABSENCE WAS ANY QUESTION REGARDING
EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER NINE OR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS
INVOLVING ANTI-GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION.
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